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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO

Rural Planning and Development (CIDER)
(Supplementary Assistance) (MEX/75/010)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	April 1979
Starting date of project activities:	August 1975 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Government implementing agency:	Centre for Rural Development Research (CIDER) of the Ministry of Programming and Budget
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 250 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In 1973, the Government initiated the Public Investment Programme for Rural Development (PIDER) with the aim of achieving, within a national integrated programme, the development and organization of the rural sector and the farmers by increasing the level of production and rural incomes, and consolidating productive units. PIDER is at present working in a hundred regions of the country and has since its initiation invested US$ 600 million in the rural sector.

2. The Centre for Rural Development Research (CIDER) assists in the implementation and evaluation of public sector investment, and as a dependency of the Ministry of Programming and Budget, in particular in the development of a national system for programming in rural regions.

* In accordance with General Assemby resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $ 250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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3. UNDP assistance in rural development planning began under the present project in 1975. 1/ Since then the project has concentrated attention on the design of a methodology of programming and evaluation for public sector investments for the Rural Development Programme (PIDER). In 1978 CIDER carried out preliminary studies on public investments made in the rural areas of the states of Yucatán and Quintana Roo, the results of which have shown that the lack of detailed knowledge of the natural resources of the region and their potential use, and of the production techniques of Mayan agriculture, greatly affect the effectiveness of agricultural development strategies implemented to date in these regions.

4. The need to further investigate the implication of appropriate technology was expressed by CIDER and UNDP has approved further assistance.

II. Objectives and activities

5. The overall immediate objectives of the project remain to: (a) design mechanisms and programming policies (for multi-sector rural development) which will form part of the National System; (b) train the personnel who will be in charge of programming agropecuarian and rural matters; and (c) determine and implement courses on rural development programming and agropecuarian planning.

6. Within these objectives the supplementary assistance now approved will enable CIDER and the local offices of the Ministry of Programming and Budget to become familiar with the structure and operations of Mayan agriculture which is practiced on the Yucatán Peninsula, and to provide area farmers with the essential knowledge of regional agricultural methods, in order to provide for a team of trained technical personnel to work directly with the local people.

III. Inputs

7. Under the assistance approved, UNDP will provide through the Executing Agency, for the services of two experts, one in rural planning and the other in the development of food systems, as well as the consultants to assist in specific studies, particularly the ecological characteristics of the Yucatán Peninsula. In addition, a subcontract will be concluded with CIDER to utilize the services of local consultants in the study of Mayan agriculture. These local consultants will preferably be recruited from among the graduates of the University of Mérida in the field of agriculture, anthropology and economics, who speak the Mayan language.

8. The Government will provide national personnel for the research; the necessary administrative support; the necessary documentation and data resources.

IV. Financial data

9. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	332 000	128 600	460 600
Equipment	-	20 000	20 000
Consultants	11 600	24 000	35 600
Subcontracts	-	70 600	70 600
Miscellaneous/Travel	24 800	6 800	31 600
	368 400	250 000	618 400

10. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $500,000 in kind.

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